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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS.

FEBRUARY, 1947.

1. GENERAL.

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, (Dr. Roland Wilson), covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of February, 1947, and the eight months ended February, 1947.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. It also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see 2(i) - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants of such beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Sections 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exits notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during that period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY.

(i) Claims Rejected: The number of applicants for benefit whose claims were rejected during the eight months ended February, 1947, is shown in the table below. No further dissection of these rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information in the near future.

CLAIMS REJECTED - EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947 : STATES.

S t a t e	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	T o t a l	
				Number	Per cent. of All Claims.
New South Wales (a)	3,109	1,320	50	4,479	18.5
Victoria ..	3,898	1,609	50	5,557	20.1
Queensland ..	11,881	926	46	12,853	28.6
South Australia (b)	2,423	990	26	3,439	40.4
Western Australia	5,215	620	27	5,862	29.2
Tasmania ..	88	259	4	351	15.5
<u>TOTAL:</u>	26,614	5,724	203	32,541	25.5

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Claims Admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit: The following table shows, for the year ended June, 1946, and for the months from July, 1946, to February, 1947, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and persons remaining on benefit:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1946, AND MONTHS OF JULY, 1946, TO FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
<u>CLAIMS ADMITTED.</u>									
1946 -									
Year ended									
June	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
July	9,071	2,494	3,334	666	57	17	12,462	3,177	15,639
August	3,875	164	4,199	917	56	31	8,130	1,112	9,242
September	2,791	109	3,385	759	27	22	6,203	890	7,093
October(a)	3,102	97	3,546	877	81	27	6,729	1,001	7,730
November(a)	16,132	1,001	4,348	1,065	201	31	20,681	2,097	22,778
December(a)	8,941	309	2,706	665	147	20	11,794	994	12,788
1947 -									
January (a)	6,112	161	2,834	602	64	8	9,010	771	9,781
February(a)	3,263	118	2,552	640	36	2	5,851	760	6,611
<u>DISCONTINUANCES.</u>									
1946 -									
Year ended									
June	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
July	9,188	2,494	2,996	547	40	8	12,224	3,049	15,273
August	4,125	195	3,868	786	42	16	8,035	997	9,032
September	2,983	145	3,293	655	24	8	6,300	808	7,108
October (a)	3,106	107	3,424	777	47	27	6,577	911	7,488
November(a)	9,559	850	4,333	983	75	18	13,967	1,851	15,818
December(a)	4,418	155	2,527	686	51	13	6,996	854	7,850
1947 -									
January (a)	10,015	341	2,944	628	162	11	13,121	980	14,101
February(a)	3,681	97	2,384	536	52	10	6,117	643	6,760
<u>PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH.</u>									
1946 -									
June	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July	6,459	297	5,966	1,411	73	149	12,498	1,857	14,355
August	6,209	266	6,297	1,542	87	164	12,593	1,972	14,565
September	6,017	230	6,389	1,646	90	178	12,496	2,054	14,550
October (a)	6,013	220	6,511	1,746	124	178	12,648	2,144	14,792
November(a)	12,586	371	6,526	1,828	250	191	19,362	2,390	21,752
December(a)	17,109	525	6,705	1,807	346	198	24,160	2,530	26,690
1947 -									
January (a)	13,206	345	6,595	1,781	248	195	20,049	2,321	22,370
February(a)	12,788	366	6,763	1,885	232	187	19,783	2,438	22,221

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTE: For monthly figures from July, 1945, to June, 1946, see October, 1946 Bulletin.

3. BENEFITS PAID.

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during February, 1947, and the eight months ended February, 1947, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING FEBRUARY, 1947, AND THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947 : STATES.

State	Benefits paid during February, 1947.				Benefits paid during eight months ended February, 1947.			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
N.S.W. (a)	19,723	21,848	992	42,563	119,409	175,477	3,899	298,785
Victoria	7,112	7,518	414	15,044	127,878	115,504	4,297	247,679
Q'ld.	66,900	10,616	913	78,429	275,231	69,237	3,744	348,212
S.A. (b)	1,820	5,188	131	7,139	16,181	48,183	898	65,262
W.A.	7,073	4,767	363	12,203	87,117	39,333	1,796	128,246
Tasmania	333	1,955	91	2,379	6,004	21,926	1,309	29,239
<u>TOTAL:</u>	102,961	51,892	2,904	157,757	631,820	469,660	15,943	1,117,423

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.



#### 4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED.

(i) Duration: The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, is shown in the following table:-

##### DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Duration of Benefit. Weeks	Unemployment			Sickness			TOTAL (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Less than 1	9,691	1,368	11,059	2,388	384	2,772	12,117	1,752	13,869
1 and under 2	11,569	2,064	13,633	4,046	687	4,733	15,666	2,758	18,424
2 " " 3	4,757	163	4,920	3,488	629	4,117	8,306	801	9,107
3 " " 4	3,556	126	3,682	3,012	645	3,657	6,613	777	7,390
4 " " 5	2,829	110	2,939	2,292	517	2,809	5,199	634	5,833
5 " " 9	9,800	358	10,158	5,421	1,213	6,634	15,393	1,597	16,990
9 " " 13	3,466	140	3,606	2,412	673	3,085	5,946	831	6,777
13 " " 26	3,786	219	4,005	2,872	837	3,709	6,706	1,079	7,785
6 and over	1,329	54	1,383	1,541	349	1,890	2,883	431	3,314
TOTAL:	50,783	4,602	55,385	27,472	5,934	33,406	78,829	10,660	89,489

(a) Includes Special Benefits (574 males, 124 females, 698 persons).

Of the 89,489 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, 34,866 (39 per cent) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 40,699 (45 per cent) for four weeks and over, 48,089 (54 per cent) for three weeks and over, 57,196 (64 per cent) for two weeks and over, 75,620 (85 per cent) for one week and over, whilst 13,869 (15 per cent) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Twenty per cent of unemployment and eight per cent of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 54 and 35 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation: Of the 55,385 cases of unemployment benefit whose termination was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, 50,631 (91.4 per cent) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 1,804 (3.3 per cent) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 1,778 (3.2 per cent) failed or refused to accept an offer of employment.

Of the 33,406 cases of sickness benefit whose termination was notified, 28,596 (85.6 per cent) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 1,519 (4.5 per cent) were classified as permanently incapacitated which, in practically every case, means that they were transferred to Invalid Pensions, 1,343 (4.0 per cent) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 616 (1.8 per cent) died.

#### 5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF FEBRUARY, 1947.

##### TOTAL PERSONS.

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 22nd February, 1947, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 89 per 10,000, comprising 53 unemployment, 34 sickness and 2 special cases per 10,000. The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

##### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1947, PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA.

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment.			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males	.. per 10,000 males	71	37	1	109
Females	.. per 10,000 females	5	28	3	36
Persons	.. per 10,000 persons	53	34	2	89

(ii) State Totals: The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 22nd February, 1947:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1947 : STATES.

	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		T o t a l		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W.(a)	2,345	61	2,683	631	83	45	5,111	737	5,848
Vic.	1,740	55	1,725	620	70	44	3,535	719	4,254
Q'ld.	7,394	198	872	200	51	37	8,317	435	8,752
S.A. (b)	160	3	655	183	5	15	820	201	1,021
W.A.	1,103	46	520	166	18	20	1,641	232	1,873
Tas.	46	3	308	85	5	26	359	114	473
TOTAL:	12,788	366	6,763	1,885	232	187	19,783	2,438	22,221

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages: Distribution of persons on benefit at 22nd February, 1947, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Grouped Age(as at 31st Dec., 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			T o t a l (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 Years	588	128	716	443	419	862	1,031	557	1,588
20 - 24 "	1,375	101	1,476	591	484	1,075	1,968	595	2,563
25 - 29 "	1,394	37	1,431	524	214	738	1,920	261	2,181
30 - 34 "	1,350	25	1,375	585	138	723	1,941	182	2,123
35 - 39 "	1,162	21	1,183	631	128	759	1,795	172	1,967
40 - 44 "	1,350	17	1,367	648	148	796	1,998	193	2,191
45 - 49 "	1,313	12	1,325	759	155	914	2,073	201	2,274
50 - 54 "	1,297	14	1,311	825	124	949	2,126	169	2,295
55 - 59 "	1,461	11	1,472	963	70	1,033	2,431	96	2,527
60 - 64 "	1,498	-	1,498	794	5	799	2,500	12	2,512
TOTAL:	12,788	366	13,154	6,763	1,885	8,648	19,783	2,438	22,221

(a) Includes Special Benefits (232 males, 187 females, 419 persons)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF FEBRUARY, 1947.

(i) Cause of Unemployment: The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, and by those who were on benefit at 22nd February, 1947.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.



CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING  
EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947 - AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during eight months ended Feb., 1947.			On benefit at 22nd February, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons	557	10	567	136	1	137
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness ..	1,530	58	1,588	542	14	556
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment ..	4,821	173	4,994	1,336	24	1,360
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only	1,790	140	1,930	496	26	522
Other discharges, including inadequately defined ..	321	12	333	81	3	84
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing ..	8,379	3,038	11,417	181	26	207
Shortage of materials ..	1,982	62	2,044	395	20	415
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment ..	13,369	364	13,733	1,880	24	1,904
Seasonal work ..	6,758	152	6,910	3,286	64	3,350
Casual work ..	5,804	59	5,863	1,523	17	1,540
Other reasons, including inadequately defined ..	932	39	971	286	26	312
Inadequately defined ..	6	-	6	248	4	252
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy	3,399	195	3,594	1,021	52	1,073
Other quits, including inadequately defined ..	2,321	135	2,456	543	40	583
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account	848	7	855	272	1	273
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work ..	2,260	46	2,306	540	11	551
Other ..	43	40	83	22	13	35
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>55,120</b>	<b>4,530</b>	<b>59,650</b>	<b>12,788</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>13,154</b>

(ii) Industrial Groups: In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, and of those on benefit at 22nd February, 1947:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING EIGHT MONTHS ENDED  
FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during eight months ended February, 1947.			On benefit at 22nd February, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	5,511	10	5,521	2,145	2	2,147
Other Primary Production ..	677	-	677	211	-	211
Coal Mining ..	958	-	958	37	-	37
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	648	-	648	119	-	119
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working, including shipbuilding ..	13,723	365	14,088	2,232	21	2,253
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	2,576	27	2,603	252	1	253
Textiles and articles of dress	1,135	2,172	3,307	100	82	182
Food, drink and tobacco ..	6,567	481	7,048	2,500	73	2,573
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	1,647	45	1,692	204	1	205
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	3,255	273	3,528	477	10	487
Building and construction ..	4,163	1	4,164	1,014	-	1,014
Transport and Communication ..	4,496	74	4,570	751	7	758
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	3,310	251	3,561	860	37	897
Finance and property ..	183	10	193	63	2	65
Public Administration and Professional	2,170	125	2,295	713	29	742
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,999	616	2,615	561	78	639
Other ..	2,102	80	2,182	549	23	572
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>55,120</b>	<b>4,530</b>	<b>59,650</b>	<b>12,788</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>13,154</b>

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 22nd February, 1947, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Food, Drink, etc., Factories: (Australia 2,500 males) - Q'ld. 2,246, N.S.W. 107:  
Founding, Engineering, etc.: (Australia 2,232 males) - Vic. 1,091, N.S.W. 776,  
 Q'ld. 217, W.A. 110:  
Agriculture, Pastoral, etc.: (Australia 2,145 males) - Q'ld. 1,710, N.S.W. 337:  
Building and Construction: (Australia 1,014 males) - Q'ld. 636, N.S.W. 197:  
Wholesale and Retail Trade: (Australia 860 males) - Q'ld. 481, N.S.W. 163,  
 W.A. 134:  
Transport and Communication: (Australia 751 males) - Q'ld. 446, W.A. 133,  
 N.S.W. 110:  
Public Administration, etc.: (Australia 713 males) - Q'ld. 449, N.S.W. 125:  
 (a) Defence - Civilian employees: (Australia 390 males) - Q'ld. 308.

(iii) Metropolitan and Other: Unemployment benefits whose admission was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, and those current at 22nd February, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during eight months ended February, 1947.				On Benefit at 22nd February, 1947.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	3,195	45	4,737	251	1,173	5	1,172	56
Victoria	10,394	377	1,825	34	1,512	46	228	9
Queensland	9,245	1,913	14,589	1,047	2,045	20	5,349	178
S.A. (c)	773	4	342	6	138	3	22	-
W.A.	7,719	778	2,001	72	973	40	130	6
Tasmania	220	2	80	1	32	2	14	1
TOTAL:	31,546	3,119	23,574	1,411	5,873	116	6,915	250

- (a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Service (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.  
 (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE EIGHT MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947, AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF FEBRUARY, 1947.

(i) Metropolitan and Other: Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, and those current at 22nd February, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during eight months ended February, 1947.				On Benefit at 22nd February, 1947.			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	4,795	1,329	4,569	654	1,408	409	1,275	222
Victoria	4,486	1,475	2,581	546	1,162	468	563	152
Queensland	1,906	459	2,417	357	433	109	439	91
S.A. (c)	2,101	449	1,137	173	460	131	195	52
W.A.	1,705	528	1,095	209	330	122	190	44
Tasmania	473	115	843	148	134	34	174	51
TOTAL:	15,466	4,355	12,642	2,087	3,927	1,273	2,836	612

- (a) See footnote to Table 6(iii). (b) Includes A.C.T. (c) Includes Northern Territory.



(ii) Nature of Sickness: The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of persons whose admission was notified during the eight months ended February, 1947, and of those on benefit at 22nd February, 1947:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING EIGHT MONTHS  
ENDED FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

	Claims admitted during eight months ended February, 1947.			On Benefit at 22nd February, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1,902	415	2,317	358	123	481
Cancer ..	209	25	234	74	15	89
Other Tumours ..	238	133	371	66	42	108
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	1,790	415	2,205	556	199	755
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	139	144	283	47	54	101
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	2,477	805	3,282	686	272	958
Circulatory System ..	2,363	282	2,645	869	108	977
Respiratory System ..	3,333	554	3,887	645	127	772
Digestive System ..	5,994	1,324	7,318	1,178	264	1,442
Genito-Urinary System ..	1,136	468	1,604	299	136	435
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	564	564	-	184	184
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	1,708	307	2,015	332	64	396
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	751	150	901	193	49	242
Other Diseases (including ill-defined conditions) ..	385	192	577	107	70	177
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	2,753	251	3,004	850	76	926
Other Injuries, etc. ..	2,626	251	2,877	432	60	492
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	189	132	321	43	39	82
Other (including not stated) ..	115	30	145	28	3	31
TOTAL:	28,108	6,442	34,550	6,763	1,885	8,648

(iii) Industrial Groups: The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 22nd February, 1947, is shown in the following table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 22ND FEBRUARY, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	553	17	570
Other Primary Production ..	157	-	157
Coal Mining ..	289	1	290
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	105	-	105
Factories and Industrial -			
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,060	75	1,135
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	270	10	280
Textiles and articles of dress ..	235	343	578
Food, drink and tobacco ..	444	110	554
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	248	18	266
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	609	119	728
Building and Construction ..	826	-	826
Transport and Communication ..	707	43	750
Commerce and Finance -			
Wholesale and retail trade ..	619	320	939
Finance and property ..	41	20	61
Public Administration and Professional ..	229	289	518
Personal and Domestic Service ..	329	514	843
Other ..	42	6	48
TOTAL:	6,763	1,885	8,648